

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies Degree

Purpose

The Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (M.A.B.S.) program is designed for those who desire to enhance their knowledge of the Scripture. The following are encouraged to consider this program:

- a. Those with several years of pastoral experience who desire further Biblical and theological study
- b. Those leading various church-related ministries other than the pulpit ministry
- c. Those who seek to develop competence in studying and teaching the Bible effectively

Objectives

To enable the students to demonstrate:

- a. A general knowledge of the Bible, including a basic understanding of selected books
- b. A general knowledge of conservative Christian theology
- c. The necessary skills to use the Bible effectively in ministry
- d. Competence in teaching Biblical truth
- e. An understanding of the Biblical foundations of the local church and its various ministries
- f. Necessary skills to lead a local church ministry or a church-related ministry

Admission

The applicant must have a Bachelor of Arts degree, Bachelor of Science degree, or the equivalent from a recognized college.

Curriculum

Concentration Hours (45)

Biblical Studies/New Testament/Old Testament (21)

- BIBL 5723 Biblical Hermeneutics
- OR BIBL-7713 Computer-assisted Biblical Hermeneutics/Exegesis
- BIBL 5733 Introduction to Exposition
- BIBL 6733 Biblical Research and Writing
- BIBL 5113 Old Testament Survey*
- OR BIBL-5123 Old Testament Literature
- BIBL 6113 Old Testament Introduction
- BIBL 5413 New Testament Survey*
- OR BIBL-5423 New Testament Literature
- BIBL 6413 New Testament Introduction

Theology (12)

- THEO 5113 Systematic Theology I*
- THEO 5123 Systematic Theology II*
- Apologetics /Theology Electives (6)

Church History (3)

- HIST 5703 Survey of Church History
- OR HIST 6733 Baptist History and Distinctives

Discipleship

CHMN-5113 Discipleship I: Intro to Disciplines of Discipleship
 OR PAST-6013 Spiritual Discipline and Development
 CHMN 5613 Discipleship and C.E. in the Local Church (3)

Missions/Evangelism

CHMN-5013 Christian Life and Evangelism
 OR ICST-7313 Intro Cults and World Religion
 ICST-5013 Global Focus of the Local Church
 OR ICST-5213 Biblical Theology of Missions

Specialization/Focus Concentration Electives (12)

TOTAL 60

* Required for students without undergraduate equivalence (+) Core Courses—minimum passing grade is C

Specific Graduation Requirements

The completion of 60 hours of classes with a GPA of 2.00.

Course Descriptions

BIBL 5723 Biblical Hermeneutics 3 credit hours A study of the principles of Biblical interpretation in all of its basic aspects such as theological, historical, cultural, grammatical, and literary. This includes particular topics such as typology, symbolism, prophecy, figures of speech, and parables.

BIBL 7713 Computer-Assisted Biblical Exegesis 3 credit hours Recognizing the strategic stewardship of time, depth of study, and breadth of accuracy computer technology offers for academic pursuits in Biblical studies, this course maximizes the same for the benefit of the busy professor, seminarian, or college student. The course is designed to train the participant in the optimum use of one of a number of leading Bible Software programs, including BibleWorks, Logos, PC Study Bible (Bible Soft), Pradis (Zondervan), Quick Verse, or WordSearch. The course implements and optimizes the use of computer Bible software for Biblical exegesis consistent with sound hermeneutical principles as communicated in BIBL-5723 *Biblical Hermeneutics* and BIBL-5733 *Introduction to Exposition*.

BIBL 5733 Introduction to Exposition 3 credit hours (Prerequisite: BIBL-5723) A study of the expository principles that enable a student to discover the natural expository outline of a passage of Scripture and the principles for transforming the outline into a sermon.

BIBL 6733 Biblical Research and Writing 3 credit hours A study of research methods for finding relevant information on a Bible-related topic and of the method for writing research papers in proper form and style. Students should take this course early in their programs.

BIBL 5113 Old Testament Survey 3 credit hours A course presenting the backgrounds and messages of the Old Testament books. Special attention is given to the first chapters of Genesis and the national history of Israel. Significant features of each book are pointed out, and timeless, universal truths in each book are emphasized. Required for students without undergraduate equivalence. \$30.00 fee required.

BIBL 5123 Old Testament Literature 3 credit hours Selected, representative types of Old Testament literature, such as law, history, poetry, wisdom, and prophecy, will be treated in an expository manner. Concern will be shown for Hebrew thought-patterns and historical/cultural context as important ingredients in to sound exposition.

BIBL 6113 Old Testament Introduction 3 credit hours Advanced introduction to the Old Testament, including the literary criticism of the Pentateuch and other sections of the Old Testament.

BIBL 5413 New Testament Survey 3 credit hours A course presenting the backgrounds and messages of the New Testament. Special emphasis is given to the significance of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to certain books such as the Gospel of Matthew and the Acts of the Apostles. Significant features of each book are pointed out, and timeless, universal truths in each book are emphasized. Required for students without undergraduate equivalence. \$25.00 fee required.

BIBL 5423 New Testament Literature 3 credit hours Selected, representative types of New Testament literature will be treated in an expository fashion. Selections will come from the Johannine, Pauline, and Hebrew Christian material. Attention will be given to the contribution which the historical and cultural context makes to a sound hermeneutical understanding of the Biblical material.

BIBL 6413 New Testament Introduction 3 credit hours A study of the books of the New Testament, giving attention to questions of authorship, date, origin, destination, purpose, literary characteristics, content, and problem areas.

THEO 5113 Systematic Theology I 3 credit hours A study of the doctrines of the Bible, God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. \$25.00 fee required.

THEO 5123 Systematic Theology II 3 credit hours A study of the Biblical doctrines of angels, mankind, sin, salvation, the church, and future things. \$20.00 fee required.

HIST 5703 Survey of Church History 3 credit hours A survey of the important events, movements, and individuals characterizing each period of the church history. Includes an introduction to the study of church history.

HIST 6733 Baptist History and Distinctives 3 credit hours A study of the origin, development, and various expressions of the doctrines and practices of Baptists. Consideration is also given to distinctive doctrines and current issues.

CHMN 5013 Christian Life and Evangelism 3 credit hours Examines the terms of salvation and applies them to the personal approach, discussion, and appeal in personal evangelism. Consideration is given to various specialty groups.

ICST 7313 Introduction to Cults and World Religions 3 credit hours An introductory study of the major cults and religions of the world. Special attention will be given to the Christian's approach to the followers of other faiths.

CHMN 5113 Discipleship I - Introduction to Disciplines in Discipleship 3 credit hours Discipleship I introduces the student to a Biblically, grammatically correct understanding of the Great Commission and initiates the student in the discipling process and practice. The course also serves as the first of five courses in a possible concentration in discipleship for those students seeking such a concentration. Discipleship I covers the relationship of the believer to the Great Commission, issues of personal and spiritual management, evangelism, and basic Christian living. The student is initiated to being both personally disciplined and prepared to disciple others through this course.

PAST 6013 Spiritual Discipline and Development 3 credit hours A consideration of the Biblical principles for cultivating a balanced spiritual life. This embraces the emotional, physical, and practical, and includes personality development.

CHMN 5613 Discipleship and Christian Education in the Local Church 3 credit hours A survey of all the major Christian education ministries in the local church with basic tips on how to organize and operate these. Emphasis is given to resources and effective ministry organizations.

ICST 5013 Global Focus of the Local Church 3 credit hours A course introducing the world missions ministry of the local church grounded in the OT and re-commissioned in the NT. In addition to presenting the Biblical basis for missions, the course identifies Biblical strategies for developing local church missions ministries that motivate and maximize individual and corporate participation.

ICST 5213 Biblical Theology of Missions 3 credit hours Gives the student a Biblical foundation for missions by tracing the missions theme through the Bible. The course works toward a grasp of the theological factors directly impacting missions.